

Appl. No. 09/724,744
Amdt. Dated 1/28/07
Response to Notice of Allowance dated 1/17/07

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-58 are cancelled.

59. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating an overall transfer of at least one property interest in a patent asset between first and second parties by way of the web, the method comprising:

- (a) providing an interface by way of a computer system of an intermediary by which at least one of the first and second parties ~~communicate~~ communicates with the intermediary;
- (b) receiving identification information from at least one of the first and second parties;
- (c) obtaining first information concerning the patent asset, wherein the first information includes at least one of a number identifying the patent asset, a filing date, an issue date, expiration information, descriptive information concerning a technical subject matter of the patent asset, product information regarding a product that is within a scope of the patent asset, and market information regarding a market to which the patent asset pertains;
- (d) verifying at least one aspect of property rights of the first party in the patent asset;
- (e) performing at least one evaluation, wherein the evaluation relates to at least one of a financial value of the patent asset, a technological scope of the patent asset, a product coverage of the patent asset, a market for products covered by the patent asset, and whether there ~~have~~ has been at least one of past ~~inquiries~~ inquiry concerning the patent asset;
- (f) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the first party's property rights;
- (g) transferring the at least some of the first party's property rights to the intermediary based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f), whereby the at least some of the first party's property rights become property rights of the intermediary;
- (h) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the intermediary's property rights ~~in the patent asset~~; and
- (i) transferring the at least some of the intermediary's property rights ~~in the patent asset~~ to the second party based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h).

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60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein each of the first and second parties is a corporate entity, and wherein the patent asset includes at least one of a patent and a pending patent application.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the at least one aspect that is verified in (d) is selected from the group consisting of an ownership status and a validity status of the patent asset.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein the conditions for transfer in (f) include at least one of of a price, a royalty rate, another payment indication, and a condition identifying which of the first party's property ~~rights~~ rights are to be transferred, and

wherein the conditions for transfer in (h) include at least one of of a price, a royalty rate, another payment indication, and a condition identifying which of the intermediary's property rights are to be transferred.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein the at least some of the first party's property rights that ~~are~~ are transferred include at least one of a full assignment and a first license, and wherein the at least some of the intermediary's property ~~rights~~ rights that are transferred include at least one of a full assignment, the first license and a second license, and wherein each assignment and license includes a respective set of associated property rights.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, wherein each license is selected from the group consisting of an exclusive license, a nonexclusive license, a license of limited duration in time, a license that is limited to a geographical region, a license in which there are limitations on sublicensing, a license in which sublicensing is authorized, a sublicense, and a license including a field of use restriction.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, further comprising at least one of:
prior to (f), obtaining additional information regarding an extent of the first party's patent ~~rights~~ rights that the first party is interested in transferring to the intermediary; and,

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prior to (h), obtaining further information regarding an extent of the intermediary's patent rights that the second party is interested in having transferred from the intermediary.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein the interface includes at least one field for receiving input information, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the identification information, the first information, the conditions for transfer in (f), the conditions for transfer in (h), the agreement of (g), and the agreement of (i) is received by way of the at least one field of the interface via an internet-type network.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the computer system of the intermediary includes a server hosting a website, and wherein the website hosted by the server provides a plurality of web pages that form at least a portion of the interface.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein at least one of the following is true:
at least a portion of at least one of the identification information, the first information, the conditions for transfer in (f), the conditions for transfer in (h), the agreement of (g), and the agreement of (i) is obtained by the intermediary by at least one of prompting a user to answer a question, providing a selectable item, and providing an open entry space into which the user can provide a submission, and

wherein the intermediary receives username and password information from the first and second parties by way of the interface.

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein the intermediary is an investment bank for which facilitating intellectual property transfers is a primary business purpose, and wherein the intermediary facilitates at least one additional transfer of at least one additional property interest in at least one additional patent asset between at least one additional first party and at least one additional second party.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein at least one of following is performed by way of the computer system of the intermediary: the verifying of the at least one

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aspect of the property ~~rights~~ rights; the evaluation; preparing of the agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f); and preparing of the agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h).

71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein at least some of ~~(a)-(h)~~ (a)-(i) are performed by at least one human being and do not involve the web.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein the evaluation is performed at least in part by an employee of the intermediary, and wherein the intermediary is in communication with at least one of the first and second parties by way of at least one email message.

73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein the intermediary interacts with an exchange entity to at least one of browse information available at the exchange entity, and retrieve information from the exchange entity, ~~and to place a first bid in relation to the exchange entity~~, and respond to a second bid communicated via the exchange entity.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, wherein the computer system of the intermediary is in communication with an additional computer system of the exchange entity, and wherein the computer system of the intermediary employs software facilitating interactions with the additional computer system of the exchange entity.

75. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, further comprising at least one of:
(i) comparing at least one of the technological scope of the patent asset, the product coverage of the patent asset, and the market for products covered by the patent asset with additional information received from a plurality of parties concerning needs of those parties relating to patent rights;
(ii) comparing a first description of a need of at least one additional party relating to patent rights with further information received from a plurality of further parties concerning patent assets available for transfer from those parties; and
(iii) consulting at least one of a public database and a private database to identify an owner of a desired patent asset and, upon identifying the owner, contacting the owner.

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76. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating an overall transfer of at least one property interest in a patent asset between first and second parties by way of the web, the first and second parties each being a respective corporate entity, the method comprising:

- (a) providing an interface by way of a computer system of an intermediary by which at least one of the first and second parties can communicate with the intermediary;
- (b) receiving identification information from at least one of the first and second parties by way of at least one of the web, the internet, a mail delivery, a telephone connection and another communication linkage;
- (c) obtaining first information concerning the patent asset, wherein the first information includes at least one of a number identifying the patent asset, a filing date, an issue date, expiration information, descriptive information concerning a technical subject matter of the patent asset, product information regarding a product that is within a scope of the patent asset, and market information regarding a market to which the patent asset pertains;
- (d) verifying at least one aspect of property rights of the first party in the patent asset, wherein the verifying includes checking an ownership status of the patent asset;
- (e) performing at least one evaluation, wherein the evaluation relates to at least one of a financial value of the patent asset, a technological scope of the patent asset, a product coverage of the patent asset, a market for products covered by the patent asset, and whether there have has been at least one of past inquiries inquiry concerning the patent asset, the evaluation being performed at least in part by an employee of the intermediary;
- (f) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the first party's property rights;
- (g) transferring the at least some of the first party's property ~~rights~~ rights to the intermediary based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f), whereby the at least some of the first party's property ~~rights~~ rights become property rights of the intermediary;
- (h) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the intermediary's property rights; and
- (i) transferring the at least some of the intermediary's property rights to the second party based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h).

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein the intermediary is an investment bank for which facilitating intellectual property transfers is a primary business purpose, wherein at least some of (a)-(i) in addition to (e) are performed by at least one human being, and wherein

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the conditions for transfer in (f) include a requirement to transfer at least one of an assignment of the patent asset and a license to the patent asset.

78. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating an overall transfer of at least one property interest in a patent asset between first and second parties by way of the web, the first and second parties each being a respective corporate entity, the method comprising:

- (a) providing an interface by way of a computer system of an intermediary by which at least one of the first and second parties can communicate with the intermediary;
- (b) receiving identification information from at least one of the first and second parties;
- (c) obtaining first information concerning the patent asset, wherein the first information includes at least one of a number identifying the patent asset, a filing date, an issue date, expiration information, descriptive information concerning a technical subject matter of the patent asset, product information regarding a product that is within a scope of the patent asset, and market information regarding a market to which the patent asset pertains;
- (d) verifying at least one aspect of property rights of the first party in the patent asset;
- (e) performing at least one evaluation, wherein the evaluation relates to at least one of a financial value of the patent asset, a technological scope of the patent asset, a product coverage of the patent asset, a market for products covered by the patent asset, and whether there ~~have~~ has been at least one of past ~~inquiries~~ inquiry concerning the patent asset;
- (f) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the first party's property rights;
- (g) transferring the at least some of the first party's property rights to the intermediary based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f), whereby the at least some of the first party's property rights become property rights of the intermediary;
- (h) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the intermediary's ~~property~~ property rights; and
- (i) transferring the at least some of the intermediary's property rights to the second party based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h),

wherein the transferring in at least one of (g) and (i) occurs by way of an additional exchange entity with which the intermediary interacts, and wherein at least one of (a)-(i) is performed at least in part by way of an employee of the intermediary.